

# FAULTY CONSTRUCTION OF THEATER BEING PROBED BY ENGINEERS

## FLAW IN BEAM IS BLAMED

(Continued from First Page.)

Jury and will not report until the end of the week. The jury will take no action until this report is at hand. Shortly before noon today Commissioner James F. Oyster was notified by the Police Department that the official casualties were 27 dead and 70 injured. He took this list into a meeting of the Board of District Commissioners.

The investigations by the coroner, grand jury and Department of Justice are the chief inquiries under way. The District Commissioners are making a separate investigation, but it is not expected they will report their findings until next week.

No Arrests Made.

Pending the outcome of the investigations now in progress no arrests have been made, and there appears to be no inclination on the part of officials to detain persons who might be implicated through the findings of the agencies probing the cave-in. District Attorney Gordon, however, said today that he would be able to get in touch with all those concerned within a hour.

Major Gordon today expressed his determination to push the inquiry with promptness, saying, however, that in view of the many different angles projecting into the investigation, it would take some time before the grand jury would return its findings.

The Morse case, which had the attention of the grand jury until the Knickerbocker collapse, will have to wait until this inquiry has been finished.

The jury summoned by Coroner Nevitt visited the ruins today, and examined portions of the material that entered into the construction of the building, but made no comments. The members were also conducted through every part of the building that was not impassable.

It was feared that some confusion would arise among the jurors at the inquest in regard to the construction of the building, and they were taken to the scene in order that they would have first-hand knowledge.

Faulty Beam Blamed.

"Although the investigation which we are conducting is not yet completed and the engineers in charge have not yet made a report, it is my personal opinion that a faulty beam caused the fatal cave-in of the roof," said Harry M. Crandall, president of the Knickerbocker Theater Company, which is conducting an investigation into the tragedy to determine the responsibility, independent of the Federal and municipal inquiries.

Mr. Crandall stated that the company has employed two construction engineers to make a thorough investigation. He did not announce their names for publication, however, but he expected their reports to be complete by this evening.

While this entire week will be devoted to investigations, it is not believed any definite information regarding the cause will be known until next week when the coroner's jury holds its public meeting. Scores of persons are expected to testify, and the jury plans to get every bit of evidence before it reaches a decision on the responsibility for the collapse.

Since Sunday morning, when the coroner's jury was first selected, members have been investigating.

Twenty Quizzes Under Way.

At least twenty private investigations are in progress today. Lawyers representing families of persons killed and injured at the Knickerbocker today. Men engaged in the structural building of the theater were being interviewed today by attorneys, and the lawyers expect to make a complete analysis of the theater construction.

The cave-in of the "truss roof," which is the standard construction in America for all large roofs, has created interest over the entire country. The American Association of Engineers have obtained permission to make an investigation, and architects and buildings in this and nearby cities plan to make an inquiry. E. F. Schmitt, engineer of the Engineering News Record, of New York, today was allowed to conduct a separate inquiry.

The Corporation's Counsel office of the District of Columbia is said to be preparing a defense for the Knickerbocker in event the local Government is sued for damages. It has been hinted by lawyers that suits will be filed against the District because the District officially declared the building safe for occupancy.

Huge Amount Involved.

It is estimated that suits aggregating a million and a half dollars will be filed in the District Supreme Court against whatever person, persons or agencies which the coroner's jury or Federal grand jury holds responsible. In the case of

## Lost Life in Disaster At Knickerbocker Theater



MISS AGNES W. MELLON, Of 1425 Belmont road northwest, who was killed in the Knickerbocker Theater crash Saturday night.

deaths, it is not expected any suit will run under \$10,000. The dead and injured list of the police department is not being generally accepted as correct. Early this morning police announced ninety-five deaths and later gave out the number as ninety-seven, with seventy injured. It is definitely known that the injured exceed at least 125 in number. Many persons, who went direct to their homes when injured, are not listed. It is believed that the injured list runs to 175, bringing the total casualties to about 275.

Prepare for Many Suits.

Legal circles today prepared themselves for the handling of several hundred damage suits. It was anticipated today by members of the legal fraternity that the suits would be directed not only against the owners of the theater and others concerned with the construction, but against the District of Columbia government as well.

Pointing out that the District was responsible in that the Building Inspector approved the building as safe, several lawyers indicated today that the Government here would figure in damage suits.

Start Razing Walls Today.

The walls of the Knickerbocker will be torn down today. Construction engineers declare these walls should not remain up longer than is absolutely necessary.

Rumors that the four walls had crashed and that the roofs of apartment houses throughout the city had collapsed, continued to float about this morning. None of these rumors has any foundation, however.

E. H. Shaughnessy, Second Assistant Postmaster General, who was seriously injured, was reported this morning greatly improved. He is expected to recover.

Miss Carolyn Upshaw, niece of Congressman Upshaw of Georgia, also said to be on the road to recovery. She is at Garfield Hospital.

Dr. Gearhart Improved.

Dr. Clyde Gearhart, at the Emergency Hospital, is said to be beyond danger. One foot has been amputated, but physicians are endeavoring to save the other.

The special coroner's jury, sworn in by Coroner J. Ramsey Nevitt, has its investigation well under way. Early next week testimony of persons who were eye-witnesses to the tragedy, officials of the theater and all other persons concerned will be taken.

It is very probable, according to officials, that the action of the coroner's jury may lead to the arrest of persons charged with criminal negligence in connection with the collapse of the roof on Saturday night.

Washington is deep in mourning today. In nearly every church funeral services are being held. It was necessary, in the case of persons who died from natural causes in the last few days, to postpone funerals to make way for those who were killed in the theater disaster.

House Probe Not Expected.

Congressman Ryan of New York has introduced a resolution in the House calling for a sweeping probe. This resolution was referred to the District Committee, but no action is expected to be taken. House leaders have decided the investigation by local and Federal authorities is sufficient at this time.

Civic and commercial organizations were discussing plans for raising a fund for the relief of victims in the disaster.

The investigation by the District Commissioners and the Building Inspector's office was resumed early this morning. Plans of the Knickerbocker Theater are being carefully scrutinized.

Major Carey H. Brown, in charge of construction work for the District, is engaged in an attempt to determine whether the theater was built in strict accordance with plans.

May Revise Building Code.

The possibility of a revision in the building regulations loomed today. Congressman Frederick N. Zillman of Maryland, member of the House

## FUNERAL RITES ON TODAY FOR CRASH VICTIMS

(Continued from First Page.)

world war hero, will be held at 2 o'clock tomorrow afternoon in the Episcopal Church at Olney, Montgomery county, Md. Lieutenant Canby, who was decorated by Belgium and France for gallantry in action with the Seventy-ninth division, was sales manager for Mid-land & Shannon's. He was the son of Benjamin D. Canby, and was thirty-three years old.

The funeral of W. Mortimer Crocker, 1740 Euclid street northwest, will be held from the Church of the Covenant, Eighteenth and N streets northwest, at 4 o'clock this afternoon, with interment in Washington, N. J. Mr. Crocker was Washington representative of the World Trade Club of San Francisco and of the American Metric Association. He is survived by his widow, Mrs. Eloise Anderson Crocker, who was injured in the crash.

Services for Boy Victim.

Vinson W. Dauber, eight-year-old son of Carl W. Dauber, 1890 Belmont street northwest, will be buried from the chapel of A. J. Schipper, 2008 Pennsylvania avenue northwest, this afternoon.

The body of Miss Helen Dortch will be sent to her former home in Berryville, Va., this afternoon.

The funeral of Kirkland Duke, 1719 Riggs place northwest, was held in St. Paul's Church this morning, with burial in Mt. Olivet.

Joint services for Alfred George Eldridge and his wife, Mrs. Harriette Elsom Eldridge, will be held in St. Margaret's Protestant Episcopal Church at 11 o'clock tomorrow morning.

Services over Thomas Fleming, 1841 Wyoming avenue northwest and his two children, John Paton and Mary Lee Fleming, will be held in St. Thomas' Church at 11 o'clock tomorrow morning.

The funeral of Christian Fiege will be held from Geier's Chapel, 1113 Seventh street northwest, this afternoon, with interment in Prospect Hill Cemetery. He was a member of the orchestra.

Requiem Mass Celebrated.

Requiem mass for L. McCarthy Farr, 1109 F street northwest, was celebrated this morning in St. Martin's Church, after preliminary services in Lee's Chapel.

Mass will be said over Miss Mary Forsythe, 1802 Belmont road northwest, at 9:30 o'clock, Thursday morning, in St. Paul's Church. Burial will be in Mount Olivet Cemetery.

Mrs. Gearhart Interred.

The services for Mrs. Clyde M. Gearhart, wife of Dr. Gearhart, dentist to former President Wilson, and who is himself gravely injured, were held this morning in Gawler's chapel.

Services for Douglas Hillyer, member of one of Washington's oldest families, and son of Adele D. Hillyer, of 2021 Hillyer place northwest, were held this morning in St. Matthew's Church, with private interment.

The funeral of William G. Hughes, naval constructor, will be held from the chapel, 2503 Champlain street northwest, at 2 o'clock tomorrow afternoon.

The body of Daniel K. Jackson, broker, of 2701 Connecticut avenue northwest, will be sent to his home in Royal, Va., for burial, following services this afternoon at the home of his sister, Mrs. Marion Dorsett, 1851 Lamont street northwest, at which Dr. Henry Allen Tupper and Dr. J. J. Muir, chaplain of the Senate, will officiate. The pallbearers will be Ralph Barnard, Robert H. Turner, E. E. Yellott, R. E. Shoemaker, George James, and Charles Seiden.

Mr. Jackson is survived by his widow, Mrs. Irene Poyntz Jackson; three brothers, Dr. Virgil B. Jackson, Dr. E. B. Jackson, and E. Hilton Jackson; his sister, three half-brothers, E. H. Jackson, Robert H. Jackson and John R. Jackson; and a half-sister, Mrs. Virginia Kirby.

District Committee, has sent to the District building for copies of the regulations. It is expected he will introduce amendments in the House to the regulations which will doubly assure safety in Washington's theaters.

Up to a late hour this morning no definite cause has been assigned for the collapse. Reginald W. Geare, architect of the theater, is conducting a private investigation. He still contends he can see no reason for the sudden cave-in of the theater.

The theory that faulty construction was responsible for the collapse is still being advanced today. Construction engineers plan to go over every part of the ruined building to determine whether the plans were strictly carried out.

All But Crandall Theaters Open.

In the meantime, all other theaters, with the exception of the Crandall houses, have resumed their shows. Each theater is assuring its patrons that a thorough investigation has been made and that buildings are entirely safe.

Thousands of persons, including architects, engineers and other professional men not directly concerned with the tragedy, visited the Knickerbocker yesterday. More than two score policemen were required this morning to hold back the vast crowds eager to get a glimpse of the fallen building.

None of the functions scheduled in Washington for this week were postponed as a mark of respect to the scores who were killed in the disaster. In addition the District dreads of letters of condolence from Commissioners are receiving hundreds of telegrams in Washington and from State and city governments in every part of the country.

Washington is truly in mourning. Never in the history of this city has such a tragedy befallen. Near the Knickerbocker Theater creeps hang from doors in every block. And in other houses there lie many who were lucky enough to be rescued by the hundreds of firemen, policemen, soldiers, sailors and private citizens.

## GIRLS PUT BAN ON 'LINGERIE LORELEI'



"To knicker or not to knicker?" is not the question among the fair sex these slushy days. Knickerbockers and riding breeches are THE thing. They are bound to become more popular as the streets become slushier.

## KENYON TO QUIT SENATE AND GO INTO U.S. COURT

(Continued from First Page.)

ten years' service in the Senate. He was first elected to the Senate in 1911 to fill the vacancy caused by the death of Senator Jonathan P. Dolliver. He was re-elected in 1913 and again in 1918. His present term would have expired on March 3, 1921. The Eighth judicial circuit, in which Kenyon will serve, comes under Supreme Court Justice Van Devanter and comprises Minnesota, Iowa, Missouri, Arkansas, Nebraska, Colorado, Kansas, North Dakota, South Dakota, Oklahoma, Wyoming, Utah and New Mexico. Kenyon succeeds the late Justice Walter L. Smith, of Council Bluffs, Iowa.

Kenyon's acceptance of the White House offer came as a great surprise to his Senate colleagues, particularly those of the so-called "progressive group" and the agricultural bloc. He had recently turned down a District judgeship offered by President Harding.

Kenyon's record in the Senate was replete with incidents of his running counter to the "regular" or "old guard" leadership. He was the co-author of the "K-K" (Kenyon-Kendrick) bill for regulation of the meat packing industry.

As chairman of the Senate Committee on Education and Labor, he recently conducted an extensive investigation into the labor troubles in the West Virginia mine fields. His report, submitted only a few days ago, recommended the establishment of a tri-partite board to deal with labor difficulties in the coal fields, similar in a general way to the Railway Labor Board, and also wrote a bill for regulations to govern the coal mining industry.

CITIZENS ARE ASKED TO CLEAR OUT GUTTERS

The District Commissioners today requested that all the residents of Washington should clean their gutters. Unless citizens will assist the street cleaning department a serious flood may result, it was stated.

It was suggested that the snow be cleaned from the sidewalks, leaving about four feet walking space. Maurice Hacker, in charge of the cleaning, stated that he had about 300 men at work Saturday and Sunday. Probably 150 trucks and wagons were busy hauling snow. The Street Cleaning Department has asked the co-operation of the citizens in its task.

## GENERAL DAVIS LOST DAUGHTER IN CRASH

Mrs. C. M. Wesson, wife of Col. C. M. Wesson, United States Army, who lost her life in the Knickerbocker disaster, was the daughter of Judge Advocate General George B. Davis and a sister of Mrs. William Ruthven Smith, wife of Brigadier General Smith.

## SEVERAL HURT IN CRASH TAKE CRITICAL TURN

Asst. Postmaster Gen. Shaughnessy Has Chance to Survive, Say Physicians.

All hospitals, where the injured from the Knickerbocker Theater crash are being cared for, today reported that the patients were resting comfortably, and that most of them were now out of danger. At Walter Reed Hospital, it was reported that Assistant Postmaster General E. H. Shaughnessy, while in a serious condition, was now thought to be out of danger. It was believed until last night that he would die. At Emergency Hospital, Mrs. Shaughnessy was reported on the road to recovery. Dr. Clyde Gearhart is reported serious at Emergency. Ed N. Williams, at Garfield, has taken a turn for the worse.

The official list of injured at the hospitals and the extent of their injuries were reported as follows today:

GARFIELD HOSPITAL.

Mrs. Guy Eldridge, 1824 Biltmore street; fractured hip and bruises.

Mrs. Joseph Younger, 1465 Columbia road; broken collar bone.

Hubert Nash, 1301 S street; bruises.

Mildred Nash, 22 years old, 1301 street; bruises.

William A. Galloway, 3320 Sixteenth street; bruises.

June Bergman, 21 years old, 1821 Biltmore street, student at Fairmont Seminary; bruised.

Mrs. C. R. Bateman, Portland Apartments; fractured arm and leg.

Edward A. Williams, member of the orchestra, 301 C street; arms cut and leg broken.

Miss Margaret Cole, 107 East Florence Court; fractured ribs and body and limbs badly cut and bruised; x-ray used to determine internal injuries.

Dr. Curtis Lee Hall, 2901 Sixteenth street; fractured arm and strained back.

Mrs. Curtis Lee Hall, 2901 Sixteenth street; arm broken and cuts about the face.

Miss Helen Hopkins, 1926 Biltmore street; sprained back and scalp; not serious.

Nathan Urdong, 2312 Twentieth street; injured about face and arm paralyzed.

Joseph Younger, 1465 Columbia road; fractured ribs.

Inez Woodruff, 2100 Eighteenth street; right leg broken and bruises.

Mrs. Howard Kneisel, 5201 Colorado avenue; broken arm.

Miss Caroline Upshaw, Octavia apartments, piece of Representative Upshaw of Georgia; one leg amputated and the other foot crushed, which may have to be amputated.

EMERGENCY HOSPITAL.

Tommaso Ascareto, third assistant secretary at the Italian embassy, 1805 California street, fractured pelvis.

Joseph Davidson, 1877 California street northwest, sprained back.

Dr. Clyde Gearhart, 1868 Columbia road, right foot amputated and left leg fractured.

Moe Gold, 1715 Eighteenth street northwest, fractured jaw and bruises.

John E. Kleener, 1538 G street northwest, sprained back and broken ribs.

Harry T. Lacy, 147 K street northwest, broken ribs.

H. B. Moses, 900 F street northwest, lacerations of scalp.

Oreste Natello, musician, 3409 Eighteenth street northwest, right arm amputated and bruised skull and other injuries.

Clarence Newkirk, 1733 Columbia road, cuts and bruises.

Edward A. Sacha, 46 Front street,

## Earthquake Recorded On Georgetown Seismograph

By International News Service.

An extremely severe earthquake disturbance, estimated to be about 2,400 miles south of Washington, was recorded this morning on the seismograph at Georgetown University here.

The tremors began at 8:25 a. m., and 8:30 a. m. became so pronounced that the needles were dislodged from the record. The tremors were still in progress at 10:15 a. m.

CLEVELAND, Ohio, Jan. 31.—

An earthquake, starting at 8:24 and apparently of "tremendous proportions," was recorded on the seismograph of St. Ignatius College here this morning, Dr. F. L. Odenbach, in charge, said today.

"It is apparently about 3,000 miles away, and I suspect either in Central America, Mexico, Alaska or the Aleutian Islands," Dr. Odenbach said. "The record shows a greater earth tremor than ever before recorded on our seismograph. The tremors died down shortly after 10 o'clock."

New York city, right ankle broken, left ankle dislocated, bruises.

Albert Sward, 1429 V street northwest, lacerated scalp.

Mrs. Mildred Bowen, 1949 Biltmore street, broken leg.

Mrs. Hassen P. Buehler, the Porter, broken finger and bruises.

Mary L. Chalmers, 22 Grafton place, Chevy Chase, Md., lacerations and sprains.

Innocent Hillyer, 2021 Hillyer place, left leg broken.

Belle Rambo, 1929 Calvert street, fractured skull.

Nellie Marie Rhea, 1301 Rhode Island avenue, sprained back.

Heidi Schwab, 1810 Calvert street, broken leg.

Mrs. E. H. Shaughnessy, 1673 Columbia road, fractured ribs.

Ruth Shaughnessy, 1673 Columbia road, both arms broken.

Mrs. Juliette Webb, Lawnsdale apartments, fractured ribs and bruises.

Inez Ewing, 3023 Cambridge place, fractured shoulder.

Moses Smith, 606 South Washington street, Alexandria, Va., lacerated scalp.

Harold Levy, 1872 California street, lacerations of head.

NAVAL HOSPITAL.

Gilbert Caplan, 1715 Eighteenth street northwest, lacerated head and arms.

Joseph C. Bruce, 1619 Hobart street northwest (home, Milford, Mass.), arm badly gashed.

Mrs. E. Pasquale, 1710 Euclid street northwest, fractured leg and severe lacerations.

WALTER REED.

John Nesbitt, 1748 T street northwest, badly bruised.

Catherine Nesbitt sister of John Nesbitt, 1748 T street northwest, injured foot.

Nancy Wesson, 1821 Belmont road, left leg fractured.

Capt. J. H. Hills, Brighton Hotel apartments, injured legs.

M. Pera Hills, Brighton Hotel apartments, leg and pelvis fractured.

E. H. Shaughnessy, Second Assistant Postmaster General, Calvert apartments, fractured pelvis bone and internal injuries.

Vincent T. Monahan, 1859 Kalorama road, bruised hip and pelvis.

John A. Morganti, 1122 Fifth street northwest, injured knee.

In addition to the injured at the hospitals there are about fifty persons suffering from minor injuries who are being treated at their homes by private physicians.

H. H. Burr, who was listed among those injured, today announced to The Washington Times that he was in his apartment at the Chastleton when the crash came.

## SOCIAL AFFAIRS ALL PUT OFF TO RESPECT DEAD

Board of Trade Postpones Dinner—Three Envoys Send Condolences.

In respect to the victims of the Knickerbocker Theater disaster all local functions and organization meetings scheduled for this week have been postponed. Condolences have been expressed by representatives of France, Japan, and Denmark, and practically every Washington business man organization has voiced its grief and arranged for memorial services.

The Board of Trade has postponed its fourth annual membership dinner, scheduled for Saturday night at the Willard, until March 4. A meeting of chairmen of all the local committees, which was to have been held yesterday, was cancelled.

A meeting of the Washington Auditorium organization committee for tonight has been postponed until next Tuesday night, the day of all the local chairmen, which was to have been held yesterday.

The Kiwanis Club will hold memorial services at a luncheon Thursday at the Washington Hotel.

Rotary Meeting Off.

The Rotary Club cancelled the regular meeting for today and will hold a devotional service for the disaster victims at 2 o'clock tomorrow afternoon in the ballroom of the Willard Hotel. The Rev. C. T. Warner will be in charge.

The dinner which was to have been given by the Attorney General to the President and Mrs. Harding, has been postponed at the request of the President.

The City Firefighters' Association postponed its second annual entertainment, to have been given tonight in Elks' Hall, and has indefinitely postponed a concert to have been given tonight in the Hotel Ebbitt.

School Exercises Postponed.

Graduation exercises in the Columbia Junior High School, Seventh and O streets northwest, scheduled for 1 o'clock this afternoon, have been postponed until tomorrow at the same time.

The fortieth anniversary banquet of the District of Columbia Commandery of the Military Order of the Loyal Legion, for tomorrow, has been postponed indefinitely.

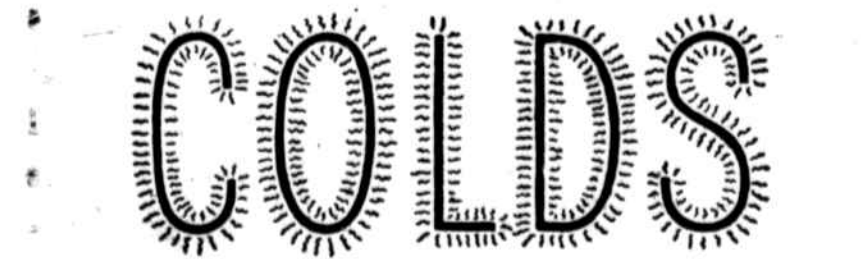
Col. John McElroy ordered postponement of a banquet by the Department of the Potomac, G. A. R., in honor of Commander-in-Chief Pilcher, at the Ebbitt last night.

The clubhouse of the Columbia Dames, 1727 K street northwest, will be closed tomorrow afternoon the card party scheduled having been postponed.

The Catholic Women's Service Club cancelled a dance to have been given last night at 601 E street northwest.

Among the messages of condolence received by the State Department are those from Albert Sarraut, head of the French consular delegation; Baron Kijuro Shidehara, Japanese ambassador and Constantin Brun, Danish minister. Baron Shidehara also sent a letter expressing regret and sympathy to the District Commissioners.

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